



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 14, 2009

Contact:

Margie Haupt
(951) 826-2391

City offers free opera concert

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The city invites everyone to a free concert celebrating opera, 2 p.m., Saturday, at the César Chávez Community Center, 2060 University Ave.

The concert is the culmination of a city-sponsored weeklong youth opera camp and an adult master class ending Friday.

The students of the youth opera camp are now involved in high-energy classes in vocal instruction, acting and movement. The evening master classes provide teacher and peer input for soloists and small groups perfecting their operatic skills. There are about 30 participants in both the adult and youth classes.

Manual Aybar, artistic director for the Riverside Lyric Opera, is directing the camp. Mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzmán of the Los Angeles Opera is working with the youth and adults.

“Singing is our first instrument, and one that rewires the way we face the day,” said Guzmán. “When kids and adults reach inside and sing from the bottom of their hearts, they tap a well of emotions that is liberating and courageous.”

The youth and adults will be performing selections from “Hansel and Gretel” and “Barber of Seville” at the concert.

Proud family members will be filling the limited seating for the community center’s auditorium.

“Lizzie wants the opportunity to sing and improve her range,” said Gwen Schlumbohm about her daughter, a participant. “She’s wanted to be an opera singer since she was 3.”

For more information contact Margie Haupt, interim project manager for Arts & Cultural Affairs, at (951) 826-2391 or mhaupt@riversideca.gov.

###